

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AID-05 OMB-01 /073 W  
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P R 130407Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3774

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL UDORN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE VIENTIANE 3255

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, LA

SUBJECT: DISCUSSION WITH PRIME MINISTER ON VANG PAO

REF: VIENTIANE 3250

1. ON MY ARRIVAL TO SEE PRIME MINISTER ON SUBJECT OF REFTTEL, HE OPENED CONVERSATION BY SAYING HE WAS TROUBLED BY VANG PAO WHO HAD REFUSED TO COME TO SEE HIM FOR THE LAST THREE DAYS AS SOUVANNA HAD ORDERED HIM TO DO. THIS OPENING GAVE ME OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE STRONG STATEMENT TO SOUVANNA ON DIFFICULTIES CONFRONTING VANG PAO AND MEOS.

2. I SAID I HAD GREAT SYMPATHY FOR THEIR PLIGHT. THEY HAD FOUGHT FOR 10 YEARS AGAINST PL AND NOW FELT SURROUNDED AND THREATENED BY THEIR FORMER ENEMIES. AS I UNDERSTOOD IT, VANG PAO HAD NOT COME TO VIENTIANE BECAUSE HE WAS AFRAID FOR HIS LIFE. IT WAS A DRAMATIC SITUATION FOR THE GENERAL. HE HAD ALWAYS BEEN LOYAL TO HIS HIGHNESS AND HIS POLICIES IN WAR AND PEACE. I WAS CONVINCED THAT VANG PAO HAD NEVER CONTEMPLATED A COUP AGAINST THE PRIME MINISTER OR AGAINST THE PGNU.

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3. I ONCE MORE EMPHASIZED RATHER STRONGLY THE POLITICAL TENSIONS EXISTING IN THE COUNTRY TODAY. I SAID EVERYONE WAS FEARFUL; LAO, MINORITIES, THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY. IT WAS A PSYCHOLOGICAL CLIMATE WHICH WAS VERY REAL. VANG PAO AND HIS MEOS WERE CAUGHT IN THIS CLIMATE. THIS WAS TRUE OF ALL THE TRIBES WHO HAD COME FROM PL TERRITORY. THEY FEARED FOR THEIR LIVES UNDER PL CONTROL. A SINGLE EXAMPLE, I SAID, IS MORE CONVINCING THAN A GENERAL STATEMENT. THIS MORNING I DISCOVERED THAT MY HOUSEBOY, HIS WIFE AND ALL THEIR CHILDREN, WHO ARE THAI DAM AND WHO HAD WORKED FOR 10 YEARS WHERE I LIVED, HAD LEFT THE PREVIOUS NIGHT FOR THAILAND. APPARENTLY THE PRESIDENT OF THE THAI DAM ASSOCIATION HAD WARNED ALL HIS PEOPLE TO GET OUT OF LAOS.

4. SOUVANNA SHOOK HIS HEAD VERY SADLY AND ASKED WHAT COULD HE DO. HE HAD MADE RADIO APPEAL FOR CALM, AS HE HAD PROMISED ME HE WOULD DO. HE KNEW THAT VANG PAO HAD ALWAYS BEEN LOYAL TO HIM; HE WAS EVEN PREPARED TO HAVE VANG PAO STAY WITH HIM IN VIENTIANE, BUT REALLY THERE WAS NOTHING TO BE AFRAID ABOUT. WHAT WAS NEEDED WAS THAT THEY ALL TALK TOGETHER. I REPLIED THAT IN MY VIEW THE MOST IMPORTANT THING HE COULD DO TO HELP VANG PAO AND HIS PEOPLE AND CALM THE SITUATION IN MR II WOULD BE TO PERSUADE THE PL TO STOP THEIR MILITARY ADVANCES AGAINST THE REGION. I WAS CONVINCED THAT THE MEOS WERE NOT ABLE TO ATTACK THE PL AND THAT VANG PAO WAS NOT PLOTTING AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT.

5. COMMENT: WHILE IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO KNOW WHAT SOUVANNA IS WILLING AND ABLE TO DO, I AM SATISFIED THAT AT LEAST HIS ATTITUDE TOWARDS VANG PAO WAS CONSIDERABLY SOFTER FROM THE RATHER HARSH POSTURE WHICH HE HAD TAKEN EARLIER.  
CHAPMAN

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## Message Attributes

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